



## Board of Health

## Minutes

December 15, 2020

**Call to Order** – The December 15, 2020 board meeting was held with in-person attendance as well as the option to attend virtually. President Neisha Grubaugh called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Members in attendance were: Dr Scarpitti, Mr. Larry Arnold, Mr. Larry Friesel, Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, Mrs. Chicky Dyer and Mr. John Wetmore with Ms. Kathy Wyatt, Mrs. Mary Billy and Mrs. Shelly Ellis attending virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Dr Scarpitti made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Mrs. Chicky Dyer, motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Larry Friesel, Dr. Scarpitti abstained as well as Mr. Larry Arnold, motion approved. .

**Introduction of Staff:** Mrs. Ashley See, Health Promotion Director introduced new staff member, Kate White who will be working in the Project Dawn(INAIS) grant, as well as Brianna Bretzfelder who will be working in the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant.

### **Public Comment:**

Barb Lechner of Granville, Ohio addressed the board.

Dr. Scarpitti provided information pertaining to Barb's address that advised of the government mandate requiring doctors to treat pain as a vital sign, which he feels resulted in much of the prescription drug issues that we see today. Mr. John Wetmore asked how we can proceed with a request to ban or mitigate doctors abilities in this sense, but Dr. Scarpitti advised that legislature has moved forward to prevent these types of things from happening now, as they had in the past.

Patricia Perry of Newark, Ohio addressed the board.

Dr. Scarpitti transitioned back to John's comment pertaining to the addictive nature of the drugs as well as steps being taken to re-coup cost pertaining to drug rehabilitation expense form the pharmaceutical companies. As a health department, we should re-center on how we can have an impact locally and address the public commenter's asks in manners that we are able to.

Mr. Larry Arnold asked what the board's policy is on accepting gratuities and gifts pertaining to a book that was provided via public comment and what the public's



perception of the receipt of such items being given to the board. Chad explained that he would follow-up with the county prosecutor pertaining to this question, and hold the books until the following meeting.

**Community and Personal Health Report** – Mrs. Kari Kennedy provided a written report to the board. Kari advised that we are working to ensure that staff are appropriately trained to distribute Covid-19 vaccine when the time comes. The County Jail continues to fare well in terms of the inmates, with no reported cases. Kari also provided a synopsis of the covid cases in the Long Term Care facilities throughout the county and advised that some facilities are working with the National Guard and other state agencies. Dr. Scarpitti inquired about the Influenza stats for the current year, which continues to track in a similar nature to that of years past. Comparatively, we are seeing 118 flu cases versus approximately 6000 Covid cases. It is important to recognize that the same measures taken to prevent Covid are also used to prevent flu, and we have little information pertaining to the co-existence of the two infections taking place at once. On a Covid testing level, we have seen several local facilities conducting antigen tests, and following up with a confirmatory test. A question arose about total cases and Long Term Care Facilities and while residents are not included in our totals, we do consider staff members. In a similar respect, we consider all deaths that occur in Licking County.

**Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report** – A written report was not provided to the board. Health Commissioner Chad Brown advised that he had a positive Director candidate in that had shown hope, but the candidate withdrew. All other EH programs are on pace. He spoke of the plans for the 2021 Food Inspections, with no anticipated changes other than not conducting inspections in the Long Term Care Facilities, which have had few problems in the past. We will provide support to them in the event that they need our support though. He also completed the Food Cost Methodology reporting for the state which allows us to determine what fees can be charged. The state may be proposing to keep fees flat funded, which Chad agrees with as we will continue to be able to operate at those levels as the pandemic plays out. The State did waive the requirements for sewage contractors to maintain continuing education courses, and LCHD plans to offer courses in November or December of 2021 instead of February when they are normally offered and were offered in February of 2020. Chad provided accolades to Hanna Kibler and Maryanne Grady both in keeping the department functioning. Chris Price took over recently as Plumbing Program manager and has done well. We do plan to contract with Franklin County to provide back up for this program. Mrs. Carole Wachtel inquired about how many restaurants had closed due to Covid- Chad indicated that some restaurants closed when they were permitted and have reopened, not necessarily on a long-term scale. We do anticipate that some restaurants will close, but we did estimate for this in our 2021 budget.

**Maternal and Child Health Report:** Todd Kirkpatrick provided a written report to the board. He advised that his staff have been making transitions with the pandemic





response as much of LCHD has been as well. He and his team have been aiding with voicemail response but a process change has enabled us to better respond, versus unburying from voicemail on a nearly daily basis. WIC is going well. He indicated that his staff is experiencing some burnout with the amount of time being spent on the phone, which he is sure that other departments are experiencing as well. Todd participated in a Pandemic Data Assessment task force call involving EHS staff, which is geared at assessing the services provided among us, the Early Head Start staff and families.

**Health Promotion Report-** Ashley See provided a written report to the board. Ashley advised that they recently met with Dr. Lee, Deputy Coroner, and conducted the Overdose Fatality review as part of the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant. The meeting revealed 40 overdose deaths as of December 7, with the most recent date of death being December 2. At this time last year, we had 36, and May of 2020 continues to have the highest overdose death count. The highest overall death count in years past was 42, and Dr. Lee does believe we will be over that total for 2020. Dr. Scarpitti congratulated Ashley and her staff on the compilation of her provided overdose report and inquired if Dr. Lee is able to provide data pertaining to overdoses and suicides. Ashley indicated that they can but indicated that most of the deaths they reviewed were accidental versus purposeful, though it can be hard to tell and indicated that they have seen reports of accidental overdoses with a build-up in the liver and the body cannot filter it out, and the individual overdoses even without their doctor's realizing. It was decided to ask for information pertaining to overdoses following a sober spell or release from rehab, but also the suicide linked overdose deaths. There was discussion on the map provided in Ashley's report, as the image can be difficult to see, but there is not a significant amount of activity that can be linked due to a lack in consistent first responder reporting data. Mrs. Shelly Ellis inquired about where the Newark Homeless Outreach obtains their kits for Naloxone, which was advised through the Ohio CAN program.

**Health Commissioner Report:** Mr. Chad Brown provided a written report to the board. He advised that the Licking County Board of Development Disabilities had recently awarded LCHD with the community partner of the year award. He provided an update on the monument for Chief Glover, which has been delayed due to the availability of the granite stone being used. He also provided an update on the CARES Act equipment and the approaching end of year deadline for the installation and payment of such equipment. Chad also spoke of the need to nominate someone for the 2020 Public Health Guardian award. Chad suggested Ben Broyles of Licking Memorial Hospital as he has been a great partner for a number of years, but especially this year with the pandemic response. LCHD would move forward with the presentation of this award in the coming months.

Mrs. Carole Wachtel motioned to approve the nomination for the Public Health Guardian award, Mrs. Chicky Dyer Second. Motion Passed.





Lower Lights Community Health Center would like to proceed with renting space from us for the operation of a community health clinic which would provide general family medical care, mental health services, drug rehabilitation services, and some other miscellaneous services. Chad has asked them to present to the board so that we have a solid understanding of their operation and they plan to conduct another site visit in the coming months.

Chad advised that we continue to conduct Contact Tracing. Our staff was off for Thanksgiving and we plan to follow suit with Christmas Eve and Christmas. The workload continues to increase, and a large percentage of our staff is involved with the pandemic response in some capacity. Chad presented Covid-19 data pertaining to the schools and the recent change, avoiding the need for quarantine if two layers of protection are used with kids spaced 3 feet apart. We are not seeing any additional cases among school aged children, nor seeing children who are quarantined becoming sick since this change has been made. Chad advised that we should begin seeing the vaccine being shipped close to December 22, and this is not the vaccine that requires ultra-low freezers. Our first shipments will be limited and will be geared to provide vaccines to first responders. Local agencies that fall into this group are currently working to determine which of their staff plan to receive the vaccine. Following the first few shipments, we can begin requesting the amount of vaccine that we wish to receive. The vaccine does require 2 doses, and orders in the coming weeks will require us to order first and second dose amounts, which could pose difficulty in administering first and second doses from the same manufacturers. We are unable to stray from the administration plan provided by the state or we will lose our ability to obtain and distribute the vaccine to the appropriate parties. We are currently waiting on the approved medical questions from ODH so that we can create our forms and be ready to distribute. We believed that we would be receiving funding from the state for the administration of the vaccine, but it currently seems as though we will have to bill insurance for the administration of the vaccine. Chad advised that we met with OSU-Newark facility on utilizing their larger rooms in the Reese Center to allow us to host a mass vaccination clinic. ODH has indicated funding to administer the COVID vaccine will be available in early 2021, but the capacity and use of these funds has not yet been determined. Chad explained this was the reason why he requested the board to consider adopting COVID vaccine administration fees as an emergency measure. The goal is not to bill insurance, but Chad indicated that the department needed the flexibility to do so in case the funding from ODH is not dispersed.

**Financial Reports and Bills** -The financial reports were presented to the board and discussed.

The November LCHD Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Mrs. Shelly Ellis, all members voted yea, motion approved.



The November LCHD Bills were discussed and approved on a motion by second by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Mr. Larry Friesel, all members voted yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2020-18 for the acceptance of \$150,000 in Water Pollution Control Loan Funds for 2021 was presented, which allows the dollars to pass through LCHD for Septic Repairs. A motion was made by Dr. Scarpitti, Mrs. Carole Wachtel second. A roll call vote was conducted, motion approved.

Resolution 2020-19 was presented to the board for a contract to be entered with Beagle Hill Services to allow for the repair or replacement of a septic WPCLF job at 1568 North 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Newark Ohio. A motion was made by Mrs. Carole, Second Shelly Ellis. Motion Approved.

Resolution 2021-01 was presented to the board, which provides authorization to the Health Commissioner to make transfers as necessary to cover said shortfalls throughout the calendar year in the WIC Fund. Mrs. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve, Dr. Scarpitti second. Motion Approved.

Resolution 2021-02 was presented to the board which gives authorization to the Health Commissioner to enter into contracts, transfer monies, certify additional funds and increase appropriations to fit the needs of LCHD throughout the calendar year 2021. A question was posed by Mr. Larry Arnold pertaining to the language provided versus what the Ohio Revised Code requests. Mr. Chad Brown advised that he could seek the opinion of the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Larry Friesel motioned to table the resolution until the January meeting, Dr. Scarpitti Second, motion approved for tabling.

An Emergency Fee Schedule adoption was presented to the board. The adoption would add two fees for the administration of the first and second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Depending on funding, the addition of the fee does not require us to charge the fee, but provides us the ability to, should funding not be provided. The fee schedule was adopted on a motion by Mrs. Mary Billy, Dr. Scarpitti second, motion approved.

#### **Personnel:**

A motion was made by, Dr. Scarpitti and seconded by Mr. Larry Friesel to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a Public Employee. A roll call vote was conducted.

Dr. Scarpitti	Yes
Mr. Larry Arnold	Yes
Mr. Larry Friesel	Yes
Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh	Yes





Mrs. Carole Wachtel	Yes
Mrs. Chicky Dyer	Yes
Mr. John Wetmore	Yes
Mrs. Mary Billy	Yes
Mrs. Kathy Wyatt	Yes
Mrs. Shelly Ellis	Yes

The board entered Executive Session at 7:36 PM  
The board returned from Executive Session at 8:00

Mrs. Carole Wachtel made a motion to terminate the employment of Health Educator, Chris Saylor effective December 15, 2020, Second by Mr. Larry Arnold, motion approved.

Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to grant Accounting Secretary Susan Redmond's request to change to part-time status effective December 12, 2020, to accept her request to fully retire on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and to deny her request to immediately rehire after her retirement. The motion was seconded by Mr. John Wetmore, motion approved.

Mrs. Carole Wachtel made a motion authorizing the hiring of a Clerk, Second by Mrs. Shelly Ellis, motion passed.

Dr Scarpitti motioned to accept requests to retire with regrets and congratulatory measure to Sue Bartley, Diane Kintner and Julie Goletz, second Carole Wachtel, motion approved.

It was noted that the board wanted to express their sincere thanks to all those individuals retiring for their years of dedicated service.

#### **Board member comments:**

Dr.Scarpitti wanted to officially thank Ashley See and her staff for their effort in getting the drug overdose data as well as the whole board their dedication in the covid response.

The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

The Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 8:05 PM by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Mrs. Chicky Dyer, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.



Approved:

Neisha Grubaugh, Board President

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director

